GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4292
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Smuggling of Pangolin Scales
Kamal Nath Shri ;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that illegal trade in Pangolin Scales have increased in the last few years and is threatening the existence of the endangered mammals in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh;
(b) Whether the special Task Force of Madhya Pradesh has recently busted the network of smugglers of the Pangolin Scales;
(c) if so, the details of the persons/ poachers arrested in this connection; and
(d) the steps taken by the Government to check smuggling of Pangolin Scales particularly from Madhya Pradesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) As informed by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, poaching had increased in last few years but is under control now after actions taken by Special Task Force (STF) against poachers and traders.

(b) & (c)The Special Task Force of Madhya Pradesh has taken steps to arrest 126 number of accused in connection with poaching and illegal trade in scales of Pangolins from 10 states in coordination with the Wild Life Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and enforcement agencies of other states. The details are as under -

S. No. Name of Division/ Tiger Reserve from where person arrested Date on crime filed No. of Person Arrested
1. Gwalior Forest Division 03.12.2015 15
2. West Chhindwara Division 30.04.2015 17
3. Balaghaat Division 20.09.2014 23
4. Pench Tiger Reserve 20.05.2015 15
5. Satpura Tiger Reserve 13.07.2015 29
6. Gwalior Forest Division 24.05.2016 5
7. Pench Tiger Reserve 27.06.2016 3
8. Katni Forest Division 21.02.2016 14
9. Rajgarh Forest Division 17.01.2011 5
Total 126

(d)The steps taken by the Government through the WCCB to check smuggling of Pangolin Scales from within the country, inter alia, include all species of Pangolins being brought under Appendix I of CITES, sensitization of border guarding forces, customs and Central Industrial Security Force(CISF) officials at exit points issuing alerts and advisories on poaching and illegal trade of wildlife to the concerned State and Central agencies and joint operations with State enforcement agencies to apprehend criminals involved in smuggling.

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